Remarks

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed October 6, 2004. Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Objection to the Oath

The Examiner objected to the Oath as lacking signatures of the inventors. This objection is curious, as the "Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application" (four pages) submitted in response to the Notice to File Missing Parts does indeed bear the signatures of all four inventors; the signatures are dated between July 19 and July 30, 2001. The document was submitted (mailed) to the PTO on September 19, 2001; stamped in OIPE September 24, 2001. True copies of the following are submitted herewith for the record:

- Transmittal Letter dated September 19, 2001
- Notice to File Missing Parts
- Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application
- Return postcard, stamped by OIPE September 24, 2001

In view of the foregoing, Applicant would request that this objection be withdrawn in the next action.

Drawing Corrections

Figures 1 and 2 are amended by submission of Replacement Sheets to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner; namely, to add reference numbers that appear in the specification but were omitted in the drawings. Additionally, figure 7B is amended to add reference numbers to elements not previously numbered, and to change reference "730" to "733" as 730 was already used in figure 7A. A red-line copy of figure 7B is enclosed showing the changes. Acceptance of the revised drawings is requested.

Corrections to the Specification

Informalities in the specification observed by the Examiner are corrected by the amendments to the specification above; see corrections 1-3 above. In addition, item 4 is to correct a misspelling, and item 5 corrects a reference number for consistency with the drawing. Item 6 adds narrative description corresponding to the items now numbered in corrected figure

7B. No new matter is added as the narrative merely reflects the content of the drawing figure 7B as filed.

Informalities in the Claims

The Examiner objected to claims 2-9, 11-15, 17-24, 26-30, 32 and 33 as beginning with an indefinite article even though these are dependent claims. Applicant amends these claims as requested (except claims 16-18 which are canceled) to employ the definite article in the preamble with the understanding that the changes are merely a matter of form rather than substance.

Amendments to the Claims

In addition to the foregoing, claim 2 is rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of claim 1, now canceled. Claims 2-9 therefore should now be allowed, as they were objected to as depending from a rejected base claim.

Claim 10 is canceled.

Claim 11 is rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of claim 10, now canceled. Claims 11-15 should now be allowed, as they were objected to as depending from a rejected base claim.

Claims 16-18 are canceled.

Claims 19-24 also were merely objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but otherwise indicated as allowable. Claims 19, 20, 21, 23 and 24 are each rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the corresponding base claims and any intervening claims. (Claim 22 remains dependent from claim 21.)

Two minor corrections are made in these claims. First, the word "interface" is inserted after "a parallel bus" as the limitation properly refers to a parallel bus interface, rather than the bus itself. As noted in the preamble, the claim is directed to a system for interfacing TDM data to an NP coupled to a parallel data bus; the claim does not include the bus itself. A "parallel bus *interface*" also appears in claims 2-9, 11-15, etc. In one embodiment, a Buffered Interface Chip (BIC) implements a parallel bus interface; see Figure 16A and the corresponding text at page 14 of the specification.

Second, Claims 19, 20, 21, 23 and 24 are corrected by omitting the word "said" before "second bytes of parallel data" in the same limitation -- that describing the parallel bus interface. This instance in the claim is where the "second bytes" are introduced in that they are coming off
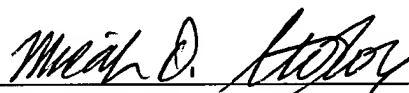
the parallel bus via the parallel bus interface. The "transmit component" is correctly recited as "disassembling the second bytes of parallel data ..." even though it appears earlier in the claim. Put another way, use of both articles "the" and "said" seemed circular. Claims 19-24 are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 25-33 were allowed in the Office Action. New claims 34-38 depend from allowed claim 25, and find support, for example, in the text at pages 23-25 and figure 9.

To summarize, claims 1,10 and 16-18 are canceled. The remaining claims (except the new dependent claims) either were previously allowed or are now in condition for allowance as indicated by the Examiner. In the event that any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned, at his direct telephone number 503-294-9189 (generally 8-5:30 PT).
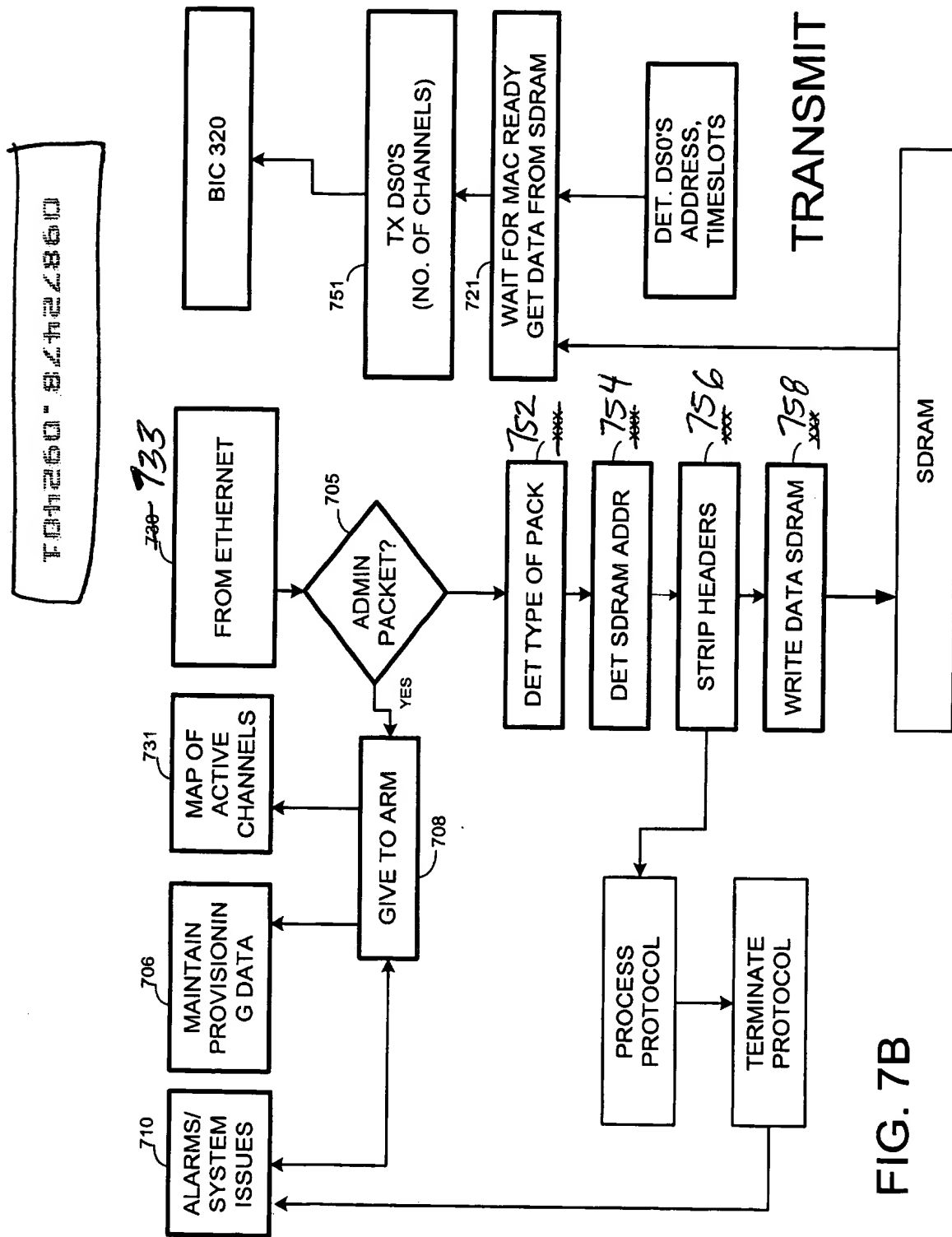
Respectfully submitted,

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Amendments to the Drawings

1. Amend drawing figures 1, 2 and 7B by substituting the appended Replacement Sheets.

FIG. 7B